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## **Istook Honored for Protecting American Oil and Gas**

*Washington, D.C.* – This year, the Independent Petroleum Association of America honored Congressman Ernest Istook (R-OK) with the 2003 Independent Oil and Natural Gas Award. The award recognizes elected officials who protect domestic oil and natural gas resources.

**“I’m grateful for this honor, but the fight to ensure our national energy independence continues,”** said Istook. **“The stability of our energy supply doesn’t just affect oil and natural gas producers. It affects us all, everyone who heats their house or drives a car. The oil and natural gas industries are a vital part of both our domestic economy and our national security. A comprehensive energy policy needs to be a priority.”**

IPAA represents thousands of domestic oil and natural gas producers throughout the United States. The award recognizes elected officials who work vigorously to maintain and enhance America’s domestic oil and natural gas resources.

**“Thanks to your leadership, Congress is making domestic oil and natural gas a priority,”** said IPAA President Barry Russell. **“In the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, we have seen legislation that provides access to much-needed capital, as well as the resource base itself. It recognizes the advancements within the industry, and will improve the nation’s economic and energy infrastructure. The provisions in these bills show the necessary commitment to establish a sound, balanced and sustainable domestic energy supply.”**

Over 100,000 Oklahomans work in the oil and natural gas industry.